

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus for selectively providing access to a service facility, said apparatus comprising:

5 a database containing client access codes;

a random character generator generating a random sequence of characters responsive to a request for access by a client;

means for communicating said generated random character sequence to said requesting client;

10 means for receiving an offset from said requesting client; and

means for combining said offset with said random character sequence, wherein a correct offset combines with said random character sequence to provide said requesting client's access code.

2. An apparatus for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 1, wherein when said requesting client provides said correct offset, said requesting client is given access to said service facility.

3. An apparatus for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 2 further comprising:

means for identifying the service facility to requesting clients.

4. An apparatus for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 3, further comprising:

wireless communication means for communicating with requesting users, said apparatus being capable of sending generated random character sequences and receiving
5 corresponding offsets using said wireless communication means.

5. An apparatus for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 3, wherein the offset provided by said requesting client is a series of numbers corresponding to key taps on a key pad.

6. An apparatus for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 3,
10 wherein the offset provided by said requesting client comprises object locations on a displayed image.

7. An apparatus for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 3, wherein requesting users communicate over a network from a remotely connected computer, said apparatus sending generated random character sequences and receiving
15 corresponding offsets over said network to and from said remotely connected computer.

8. A business method of selectively providing access to a service facility, said business method comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a request for access by a client;
- b) generating a random character string and providing said random character
20 string to said requesting client;
- c) receiving an offset from said client;
- d) combining said offset with said random character string to generate an access code; and

e) comparing said generated access code against a stored client access code corresponding to said requesting client, access being granted when said generated access code and said stored client access code are identical.

5 9. A business method of selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 8, after the step (a) of receiving the request for access, said business method further comprising the step of:

a1) sending correction operation information to said requesting user.

10 10. A business method of selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 8, after the step (a) of receiving the request for access, said business method further comprising the step of:

a1) sending service facility identification to said requesting user.

11. A business method of selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 8, after the step (a) of receiving the request for access, said business method further comprising the step of:

15 a2) sending correction operation information to said requesting user.

12. A business method of selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 8, wherein the step (c) of receiving the offset includes receiving a series of keypad entries, each said keypad entry representing an offset of one in a corresponding character of said random character string.

20 13. A business method of selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 8, wherein the step (c) of receiving the offset includes receiving a spoken offset value, said spoken offset value being converted to a series of offset characters.

14. A business method of selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 8, wherein the step (c) of receiving the offset includes receiving a handwritten offset value, said handwritten offset value being converted to a series of offset characters.

5 15. A business method of selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 8, wherein the step (c) of receiving the offset includes manipulating objects in a display, said objects being placed randomly responsive to said random character string, said object manipulation corresponding to said offsets.

10 16. A computer program product for selectively providing access to a service facility, said computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code means for receiving a request for access by a client;

computer readable program code means for generating a random character string and providing said random character string to said requesting client;

15 computer readable program code means for receiving an offset from said client;

computer readable program code means for combining said offset with said random character string to generate an access code; and

20 computer readable program code means for comparing said generated access code against a stored client access code corresponding to said requesting client, access being granted when said generated access code and said stored client access code are identical.

17. A computer readable program code for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 16, further comprising:

computer readable program code means for sending correction operation information to said requesting user.

5 18. A computer readable program code means for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 16, further comprising:

computer readable program code means for sending service facility identification to said requesting user.

10 19. A computer readable program code means for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 16, wherein the computer readable program code means for receiving the offset includes computer readable program code means for receiving a series of keypad entries, each said keypad entry representing an offset of one in a corresponding character of said random character string.

15 20. A computer readable program code means for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 16, wherein the computer readable program code means for receiving the offset includes computer readable program code means for receiving a spoken offset value, said spoken offset value being converted to a series of offset characters.

20 21. A computer readable program code means for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 16, wherein the computer readable program code means for receiving the offset includes computer readable program code means for receiving a handwritten offset value, said handwritten offset value being converted to a series of offset characters.

22. A computer readable program code means for selectively providing access to a service facility as in claim 16, wherein the computer readable program code means for receiving the offset includes computer readable program code means for receiving object manipulation on a display, said objects being placed randomly responsive to said random
5 character string, said object manipulation corresponding to said offsets.